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General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 25 January 2002 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israel, the occupying Power, continues to militantly pursue its policy of extrajudiciary executions compounding the countless war crimes and acts of State terrorism against the Palestinian people for which it must be held responsible.

Yesterday, 24 January, the Israeli occupying forces assassinated another Palestinian man in Khan Yunis, Gaza by attacking his car with missiles fired from a helicopter gunship. The Israeli occupying forces confirmed the attack and the intention to kill the man, Baker Hamdan. Two other Palestinian men were seriously wounded in that attack as well. This extrajudiciary execution represents the fifth assassination of a Palestinian carried out by the Israeli occupying forces in just the past four days, in addition to other killings, injuries, abductions and destruction incurred by the occupying forces in that time period.

These incessant, violent actions by the Israeli occupying forces have destroyed the ceasefire and re-ignited the cycle of violence between the two sides, exacerbating the already perilous situation on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem. It must be reiterated that these actions by the occupying forces reveal the true intentions of the Israeli government of Mr. Ariel Sharon to destroy any potential for the two sides to return to peace process negotiations by ceaselessly attacking the Palestinian people, the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian infrastructure.

The international community cannot stand idly by while the Israeli occupying forces continue to carry out this bloody and brutal military campaign against the Palestinian people and the Palestinian leadership. The international community, particularly the Security Council, should uphold its responsibilities with regard to the maintenance of peace and security as the situation on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory worsens and seriously threatens to destabilize the region as a whole. Moreover, it is utterly irresponsible for coverage to continue to be provided by some quarters for such Israeli positions and actions and even Israeli war crimes.

02-23233 (E) 280102

On another front, I wish to make reference to the assassination yesterday in Beirut, Lebanon, of a former Christian militia leader, Elie Hobeika, who was killed in a car bombing. Lebanese sources have indicated that his murder seems to be linked to information regarding the massacre of hundreds of Palestinian men, women and children in the Sabra and Shatilla refugee camps in 1982 during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the responsibility of Mr. Ariel Sharon in this regard. It seems not coincidental that Mr. Hobeika was killed at a time when he has revealed possession of this information to Belgian authorities with regard to the pending case in Belgian court against Mr. Sharon for genocide and crimes against humanity in connection with the Sabra and Shatilla massacre.

In follow-up to my previous 93 letters to you regarding the continuing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, dated from 29 September 2000 to 22 January 2002 (A/55/432-S/2000/921; A/55/437-S/2000/930; A/55/450-S/2000/957; A/55/466-S/2000/971; A/55/474-S/2000/984; A/55/490-S/2000/993; A/ES-10/39-S/2000/1015; A/ES-10/40-S/2000/1025; A/ES-10/42-S/2000/1068; A/ES-10/43-S/2000/1078; A/ES-10/44-S/2000/1093; A/ES-10/45-S/2000/1104; A/ES-10/46-S/2000/1107; A/ES-10/47-S/2000/1116; A/ES-10/48-S/2000/1129; A/ES-10/49-S/2000/1154; A/ES-10/50-S/2000/1173; A/ES-10/51-S/2000/1185; A/ES-10/52-S/2000/1206; A/ES-10/53-S/2000/1247; A/ES-10/54-S/2001/7; A/ES-10/55-S/2001/33; A/ES-10/56-S/2001/50; A/ES-10/57-S/2001/101; A/ES-10/58-S/2001/131; A/ES-10/59-S/2001/156; A/ES-10/60-S/2001/175; A/ES-10/61-S/2001/189; A/ES-10/64-S/2001/209; A/ES-10/65-S/2001/226; A/ES-10/66-S/2001/239; A/ES-10/67-S/2001/255; A/ES-10/68-S/2001/284; A/ES-10/69-S/2001/295; A/ES-10/70-S/2001/304; A/ES-10/71-S/2001/314; A/ES-10/72-S/2001/332; A/ES-10/75-S/2001/352; A/ES-10/76-S/2001/372; A/ES-10/79-S/2001/418; A/ES-10/80-S/2001/432; A/ES-10/81-S/2001/447; A/ES-10/82-S/2001/463; A/ES-10/83-S/2001/471; A/ES-10/84-S/2001/479; A/ES-10/85-S/2001/486; A/ES-10/86-S/2001/496; A/ES-10/87-S/2001/504; A/ES-10/88-S/2001/508; A/ES-10/89-S/2001/544; A/ES-10/90-S/2001/586; A/ES-10/91-S/2001/605; A/ES-10/92-S/2001/629; A/ES-10/93-S/2001/657; A/ES-10/94-S/2001/669; A/ES-10/95-S/2001/686; A/ES-10/96-S/2001/697; A/ES-10/97-S/2001/708; A/ES-10/98-S/2001/717; A/ES-10/99-S/2001/742; A/ES-10/100-S/2001/754; A/ES-10/101-S/2001/783; A/ES-10/102-S/2001/785; A/ES-10/103-S/2001/798; A/ES-10/104-S/2001/812; A/ES-10/105-S/2001/814; A/ES-10/107-S/2001/821; A/ES-10/108-S/2001/826; A/ES-10/111-S/2001/880; A/ES-10/112-S/2001/918; A/ES-10/114-S/2001/928; A/ES-10/115-S/2001/932; A/ES-10/116-S/2001/941; A/ES-10/117-S/2001/971; A/ES-10/118-S/2001/989; A/ES-10/119-S/2001/991; A/ES-10/121-S/2001/1007; A/ES-10/122-S/2001/1024; A/ES-10/123-S/2001/1036; A/ES-10/124-S/2001/1084; A/ES-10/125-S/2001/1092; A/ES-10/126-S/2001/1118; A/ES-10/128-S/2001/1149; A/ES-10/129-S/2001/1166; A/ES-10/133-S/2001/1239; A/ES-10/134-S/2001/1261; A/ES-10/136-S/2002/18; A/ES-10/137-S/2002/39; A/ES-10/138-S/2002/48; A/ES-10/139-S/2002/58; A/ES-10/140-S/2002/89; A/ES-10/141-S/2002/95 and A/ES-10/142-S/2002/102), I regret to inform you that since my last letter the Israeli occupying forces have killed four more Palestinians including the above-mentioned extrajudiciary execution. (The names of the martyrs are contained in the annex to the present letter.) These killings raise the total number of Palestinians killed since 28 September 2000 to 860 martyrs.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dr. Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 25 January 2002 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem* (Thursday, 24 January 2002)

Thursday, 24 January 2002

1. Baker Hamdan
2. Riyad Sa'idi Ali Al Khatab
3. Jihad Al Qasas
4. Ismail Al Saeedi

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* Total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 = 860.

United Nations S/2002/122

Security Council

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Letter dated 24 January 2002 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999, I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period 1 to 30 November 2001 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

02-23217 (E) 250102

Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on operations of the Kosovo Force

1. Over the reporting period (1 to 30 November 2001), there were just under 40,000 troops of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) in theatre.

2. The overall situation in Kosovo during the month of November remained relatively stable despite some inter-ethnic and criminally motivated incidents. Voting for the election of the Kosovo Assembly took place on 17 November, with reports of only a few minor and isolated acts of political intimidation. These incidents included an explosion outside the municipality building of Zvecan during a meeting of a Kosovar Serb political party, and the stoning of members of the same political party when leaving Dakovica monastery after a meeting. A grenade was also thrown at the house of the Mayor of Obilic.

Security

3. Although no major incidents occurred in connection with the elections, other incidents of a criminal and inter-ethnic nature were reported. These included several stone-throwing attacks on the Zvecan/Kosovo Polje train — two people were arrested following one of the incidents on 12 November; the killing of an elderly Kosovar Serb woman and the injuring of her husband in a drive-by shooting in Obilic on 22 November; and bombs thrown at a petrol station in Deneral Jankovic on 29 November, where two employees were injured. Other incidents included vandalism of graveyards and defacement of tombstones.

4. KFOR soldiers were slightly injured in one of the attacks on the Zvecan/Kosovo Polje train, and in a gas spray attack in north-east Mitrovica.

Border/boundary security

5. KFOR continued its activities along the borders with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[1] and with Albania to confiscate weapons, deter smuggling, detain persons illegally crossing the borders, and deter others attempting to enter the province.

6. During the reporting period, 190 weapons, 265 grenades and mines, and 24,065 rounds of ammunition were seized. Seventy-five people were detained and handed over to United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) police. The number of attempted illegal border crossings did not increase over the reporting period.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

7. With regard to the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC), progress was achieved when General Ceku agreed on 24 November to the modification of the KPC structure and to the requirement to establish a reserve force of 2,000. The first list of 375 reservists will be issued by the middle of December and the first vocational course will begin in 2002.

8. Thirteen cases of non-compliance were reported during November, an increase over recent months. These included the arrest by UNMIK of the Commander of the

KPC Regional Task Group 4 detachment in Mitrovica on suspicion of kidnapping. Fifteen hundred Kosovar Albanians protested peacefully in Victurin following this arrest. Other cases included one of attempted murder, and another of firing an illegally held gun in a restaurant. Six cases of non-compliance have been closed, leaving 30 cases open. The open cases are either pending investigation or implementation of recent directions, or awaiting presentation to the judicial system.

9. Despite this increase in the number of cases of non-compliance, no KPC members violated the electoral process regulations. KPC members continued to carry out a variety of humanitarian projects throughout the province.

10. No weapons were destroyed during this reporting period. The total number of weapons destroyed under the weapons destruction programme therefore remains at 10,132.

11. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia security forces remain in general compliance with the terms of the military technical agreement.

Cooperation with international organizations

12. KFOR continues to provide daily assistance to international organizations and non-governmental organizations throughout Kosovo, on request, and to provide security assistance in support of UNMIK police operations. On 16 November, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General confirmed his agreement to the first two chapters of the joint UNMIK/KFOR Mitrovica strategy.

Return of refugees and displaced persons

13. The number of refugees from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia estimated to be remaining in Kosovo is 23,200.

Elections held on 17 November

14. KFOR provided support to UNMIK and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for the duration of the Kosovo-wide elections, in which 64.3 per cent of the 1,249,987 registered voters turned out.[2] Although there were reports of minor incidents in the areas of Gnjilane, Liplijan and Kacanik, and of some intimidation of voters in northern Mitrovica, there were no organized efforts to disrupt voting.

Outlook

15. The security situation in Kosovo continues to be stable. The lack of violence during the election campaign, and the relative calm in both southern Serbia and in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are encouraging for the future security situation in the province, although the high unemployment rate (at over 66 per cent, the highest in Europe) and the dire economic outlook are of concern to the international community.

Notes

[1] Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

[2] The turnout in Kosovo was 64.91 per cent and in Serbia and Montenegro 57.38 per cent. Special needs and postal voting accounted for 65.72 per cent.

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Security Council

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Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on Lebanon, in particular resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978) of 19 March 1978, 1310 (2000) of 27 July 2000, 1337 (2001) of 30 January 2001 and 1365 (2001) of 31 July 2001, as well as the statements of its President on the situation in Lebanon, in particular the statement of 18 June 2000 (S/PRST/2000/21),

Recalling further the letter from its President to the Secretary-General of 18 May 2001 (S/2001/500),

Recalling also the Secretary-General's conclusion that, as of 16 June 2000, Israel had withdrawn its forces from Lebanon in accordance with resolution 425 (1978) and met the requirements defined in the Secretary-General's report of 22 May 2000 (S/2000/460), as well as the Secretary-General's conclusion that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) had essentially completed two of the three parts of its mandate, focusing now on the remaining task of restoring international peace and security,

Emphasizing the interim nature of UNIFIL,

Recalling its resolution 1308 (2000) of 17 July 2000,

Recalling further the relevant principles contained in the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel adopted on 9 December 1994,

Responding to the request of the Government of Lebanon, as stated in the letter from its Permanent Representative to the United Nations of 9 January 2002 to the Secretary-General (S/2002/40),

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on UNIFIL of 16 January 2002 (S/2002/55), and *endorses* his observations and recommendations;

2. *Decides* to extend the present mandate of UNIFIL, as recommended by the Secretary-General, for a further period of six months, until 31 July 2002;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take the necessary measures to implement the reconfiguration of UNIFIL as outlined in his recent report and in accordance with the letter of the President of the Security Council of 18 May 2001, in the light of developments on the ground and in consultation with the Government of Lebanon and the troop-contributing countries;

02-23292 (E) 280102

4. *Reiterates* its strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries;

5. *Calls on* the Government of Lebanon to continue to take steps to ensure the return of its effective authority throughout the south, including the deployment of Lebanese armed forces;

6. *Calls on* the parties to ensure UNIFIL is accorded full freedom of movement in the discharge of its mandate throughout its area of operation;

7. *Encourages* the Government of Lebanon to ensure a calm environment throughout the south;

8. *Reiterates its call* on the parties to continue to fulfil the commitments they have given to respect fully the withdrawal line identified by the United Nations, as set out in the Secretary-General's report of 16 June 2000 (S/2000/590), to exercise utmost restraint and to cooperate fully with the United Nations and UNIFIL;

9. *Condemns* all acts of violence, *expresses great concern* about the serious breaches in the air, sea and land violations of the withdrawal line, and *urges* the parties to put an end to these violations and to respect the safety of the UNIFIL personnel;

10. *Supports* the continued efforts of UNIFIL to maintain the ceasefire along the withdrawal line through mobile patrols and observation from fixed positions and through close contacts with the parties to correct violations, resolve incidents and prevent the escalation of incidents;

11. *Welcomes* the continued contribution of UNIFIL to operational demining, *encourages* further assistance in mine action by the United Nations to the Government of Lebanon in support of both the continued development of its national mine action capacity and emergency demining activities in the south, *commends* donor countries for supporting these efforts through financial and in-kind contributions and welcomes in this regard the establishment of the International Support Group, *takes note* of the communication to the Government of Lebanon and UNIFIL of maps and information on the location of mines and *stresses* the necessity to provide the Government of Lebanon and UNIFIL with any additional maps and records on the location of mines;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue consultations with the Government of Lebanon and other parties directly concerned on the implementation of this resolution;

13. *Requests also* the Secretary-General, following appropriate consultations, including with the Government of Lebanon and the troop-contributing countries, to submit to the Council before the end of the present mandate a comprehensive report on the activities of UNIFIL, its technical reconfiguration and the tasks presently carried out by the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO);

14. *Looks forward* to the early fulfilment of the mandate of UNIFIL;

15. *Stresses* the importance of, and the need to achieve, a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, based on all its relevant resolutions including its resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973.

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Note by the President of the Security Council

1. Pursuant to paragraph 4 (b) of the note by the President of the Security Council dated 30 October 1998 (S/1998/1016) and following consultations among the members of the Council, the members of the Council agreed to elect the chairman and vice-chairmen of the following sanctions committee for a period running until 31 December 2002:

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Lone:

Chairman:
Adolfo Aguilar Zinser (Mexico)

Vice-Chairmen:
Cameroon and Singapore

2. The bureau of the above-mentioned sanctions committee will be composed as above for a term ending on 31 December 2002.

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General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda items 41, 42, 54, 97, 98 and 166

Question of Palestine

The situation in the Middle East

Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Environment and sustainable development

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 21 January 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Oman to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Final Communiqué adopted during the Twenty-second Summit of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council held in Muscat on 30 and 31 December 2001 under the Chairmanship of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, Sultan of Oman.

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 41, 42, 54, 97, 98 and 166, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Al-Sameen**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

02-23363 (E) 110202 140202

Annex to the letter dated 21 January 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Oman to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Final communiqué adopted by the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council at its twenty-second session, held in Muscat, Oman, on 30 and 31 December 2001

At the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, Sultan of Oman, the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) held its twenty-second session in Muscat, Oman, on 30 and 31 December 2001 under the chairmanship of His Majesty. The meeting was attended by:

His Highness Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai;

His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, Amir of Bahrain;

His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul-Aziz, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guard of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;

His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Amir of Qatar; and

His Excellency Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, representing His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait.

His Excellency Sheikh Jamil Ibrahim Al-Hujeilan, GCC Secretary-General, also participated in the meeting.

The leaders of the GCC countries offered their heartfelt congratulations to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia, on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of his accession to the throne. They commended the great achievements of his reign in the economic, development and cultural fields and beseeched Almighty God to bestow upon him abundant health so that he might contribute further to the security and stability of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its people and to the continued progress of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

They expressed happiness at the recovery of His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait, beseeching the Lord to grant him continued health and full vigour and to extend to him His assistance in continuing his leadership of Kuwait and his support for the progress of the Council.

The Supreme Council reviewed the auspicious progress made in joint action in the economic, social, political, military, security, cultural and information fields. It expressed satisfaction at the successes achieved, and it affirmed the desire to advance the GCC process so as to realize the ambitions and aspirations of its peoples to achieve the worthy objectives embodied in the GCC Charter and further enhance the security, stability and development of the GCC States and their peoples, thereby promoting the concept of GCC citizenship in all domains.

The cooperation process

Economic issues

The Supreme Council discussed the progress made in economic cooperation among member States and considered the relevant reports and recommendations submitted to it by the Ministerial Council, the ministerial committees and the secretariat.

In order to further enhance such progress and with the desire to advance the economic integration of the GCC States to a stage conducive to the establishment of a common market and a monetary and economic union, the Council adopted the Economic Agreement between the GCC States, replacing the Unified Economic Agreement of November 1981. The new Agreement is in keeping with developments and achievements in GCC economic action and is in line with developments in the international economic arena.

The Council studied the measures taken for the establishment of a GCC customs union, and it decided to advance its launching to 1 January 2003. It further decided to lower the common customs tariff to 5 per cent on all foreign goods imported from outside the customs union except for those exempted in accordance with the decision taken in November 1999 at its twentieth session. The Council decided to grant industrial establishments in the GCC countries an exemption from customs duties on imports of production inputs, subject to specific controls. The Supreme Council instructed the committee on financial and economic cooperation to complete all of the necessary arrangements for the establishment of the customs union in accordance with its new schedule.

The Council adopted the GCC unified customs code, as amended, and approved its implementing regulation and explanatory memorandum. It decided that the Code should take effect on 1 January 2002.

In the context of the establishment of a GCC monetary union and the launching of a single currency, the Supreme Council approved the timetable for the monetary union and instructed the committee of governors of monetary agencies and central banks to implement the decision of the Supreme Council to adopt the United States dollar as a common peg for the currencies of member States before the end of 2002. It also instructed the committee on financial and economic cooperation and the committee of governors to reach agreement before the end of 2005 on the standards of economic performance that would be necessary to ensure the success of the monetary union so that the single currency could be launched by 1 January 2010 at the latest.

In order to integrate the statistical activities of the GCC countries, standardize procedures and save costs, the Supreme Council decided to adopt a uniform periodicity for general censuses with effect from 2010.

The Council adopted the sanitary and phytosanitary code, as amended in the light of the comments of member States and in accordance with the requirements of the relevant international agencies, and decided that it should enter into force with binding effect.

The Council considered the submissions made to it concerning the upgrading of the GCC standards organization in order to meet the requirements of the future

GCC customs union for standardization in member States and achieve ongoing coordination among their existing standards organizations, and it decided to establish a new and independent GCC standards organization.

With a view to promoting economic development in the GCC States, the Supreme Council instructed the development finance institutions of member States to continue to give priority to the provision of concessionary loans for development projects in Bahrain and Oman.

Man and the environment

The Supreme Council was informed of the progress made in the implementation of its previous decisions on employment opportunities for nationals of GCC countries in each of the other member States, and it affirmed that those decisions should be implemented in full.

The Council considered progress made in the implementation of the joint curriculum development plan, instructed ministers of education to expedite its introduction and urged all sectors of the community and the professional associations to ensure its success. The Council was informed of the formation of a food safety committee, and it instructed the agencies concerned to implement the committee's decisions and recommendations.

In the light of the grave environmental situation in the Gulf, the Supreme Council urged member States to complete arrangements for the construction of facilities to receive ballast water and ships' waste in the Gulf region.

Developing further its legislation and regulations to safeguard health and protect the environment and nature, the Supreme Council adopted:

A unified statute on health-care waste management

A unified statute for the management of hazardous chemicals; and

An agreement for the preservation of wildlife and its natural habitat in the GCC States.

Legal issues

The Supreme Council approved as laws with recommendatory effect, for a four-year period, the Abu Dhabi document for a unified juvenile code for the GCC States, the Manama document for a code of legal representation, the Manama document for a unified code of civil procedure and the Muscat document for a unified code of evidence. The Council also agreed to retain the Kuwait document for a unified civil code and the Doha document for a unified penal code, with recommendatory effect, for a further period of four years. All of these instruments seek to enhance cooperation in the field of law and justice among the GCC States.

Military issues

The Supreme Council considered the progress made in military cooperation since its previous session. It expressed satisfaction at the studies that had been completed and at the practical steps taken to strengthen joint defence and military cooperation. In this connection, the Council approved the composition of the joint defence council pursuant to article 9 of the relevant agreement.

Security issues

The Supreme Council approved the decisions adopted at the twentieth meeting of the GCC ministers of the interior, held in Manama on 29 and 30 October 2001, including those promoting the efforts of the GCC countries to streamline formalities relating to the movement of persons and the flow of trade between member States and enhancing cooperation in the drug control field. The Council decided to approve the GCC security strategy to counter the extremism associated with terrorism as well as a money-laundering law.

Advisory Board of the Supreme Council

The Supreme Council considered the observations of its Advisory Board on: education; the development of the educational system; energy and the environment; water strategies; and scientific and technical research. The Council decided to approve them and to refer the joint projects envisaged in those observations to the appropriate ministerial committees for the necessary measures to be taken for their implementation. It instructed the Advisory Board to explore and to submit its observations on giving effect to the long-term comprehensive development strategy and to give priority to the study of social issues, especially those relating to youth welfare, and of information issues.

Political issues

The Supreme Council, recalling and reaffirming its decisions taken at previous sessions, discussed developments in the context of Iraq's compliance with the Security Council resolutions relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait and the consequences of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

In its concern to create appropriate conditions for the achievement and consolidation of security, peace and stability in the Gulf region, the Council again urged Iraq to discharge all of its obligations under the Security Council resolutions relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait, including its obligation to respect the security, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kuwait and its obligation to resume its cooperation with the United Nations in order to resolve the outstanding issues relating to cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Tripartite Commission and Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov, the United Nations high-level coordinator for the prisoner issue and the return of property, with a view to devising an expeditious and definitive solution to the problem of Kuwaiti and third-country prisoners and hostages and bringing about the return of all of the Kuwaiti property in its possession.

The Council urged Iraq to take all necessary steps, in implementation of Security Council resolution 949 (1994) and so as to achieve security and stability in the region, to demonstrate its peaceful objectives and intentions and to refrain from any provocative or hostile action against the State of Kuwait.

The Supreme Council urges Iraq and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to resume the dialogue between them concerning renewed cooperation on a basis that will enable the Security Council to lift the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq and end the suffering of the fraternal Iraqi people. It reaffirmed its established position that the independence, unity and territorial integrity of Iraq must be respected and that there must be no interference in its internal affairs.

The Supreme Council discussed the issue of the occupation by Iran of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, recalling and reaffirming the decisions it had taken at its twenty-first session.

Having considered the recent contacts between the United Arab Emirates and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Supreme Council affirmed the full sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its three islands, the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, and over their territorial waters, their airspace and the related continental shelf and exclusive economic zone, as integral parts of the country.

In accordance with the principle of the collective security of the GCC countries, the Council voiced its support for all the steps being taken by the United Arab Emirates to restore its sovereignty over all three islands by peaceful means. It affirmed its unconditional rejection of all the claims made and measures taken by Iran with respect to the three islands on the grounds that they are null and void, have no legal effect and do not derogate from the established rights of the United Arab Emirates with regard to its three islands.

The Council renewed its call to the Islamic Republic of Iran to agree to refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice.

Following a comprehensive assessment, the Supreme Council instructed the Ministerial Council to continue to examine all peaceful measures that might be conducive to the restoration of the legitimate rights of the United Arab Emirates with respect to its three islands.

The Supreme Council reviewed with great concern the serious deterioration in the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip resulting from the persistent use by the Government of Israel of savage methods of repression against the Palestinian people and its continued pursuit of policies involving closures, blockades and incursions into the territory of the Palestinian Authority and the reoccupation of Palestinian cities, with all the grave consequences and implications of such policies. The Council cautioned in this connection against the consequences of remaining silent at this most grievous situation for the security and stability of the entire region, and it charged the Israeli Government with full responsibility for the state in which the peace process finds itself.

The Council affirmed that the present deterioration and the surge of violence under way are fundamentally due to the continuing Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory and the abandonment of the principles and norms governing the peace process as established by the Madrid conference and the agreements concluded by the two parties. The irresponsible decision of the Israeli Government to suspend contacts with the legitimate Palestinian leadership shows that it is not seriously seeking a just and balanced peace and deprives its participation in the peace process of any credibility.

The Supreme Council affirms its full support for the Palestinian Authority and its leader, His Excellency President Yasser Arafat. It calls upon all segments of the Palestinian people to rally to the support of its legitimate elected leadership and consolidate its national unity for the restoration of all of its legitimate rights, including the right to exercise self-determination and establish an independent State on the soil of its homeland with Jerusalem as its capital.

In renewing its commitment to support for the Palestinian people, the Supreme Council affirms its full readiness to play an active role in contributing to building Palestinian institutions and infrastructure. It urges the international community to act for the achievement of security and peace so that such support will have a positive impact on development in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The Council affirmed once more that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace can only be achieved with the restoration to the Palestinian people of all of its legitimate rights and the establishment of an independent Palestinian State on its national soil with Jerusalem as its capital; with Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights to the boundary line of 4 June 1967; with the completion of Israel's withdrawal from Lebanese territory, including the Shab'a farmlands, to the internationally recognized boundary in accordance with Security Council resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978); and with the release of all the Lebanese prisoners and abductees being held in Israel's prisons.

The Supreme Council condemned the policy of escalating the cycle of violence as pursued by the Israeli Government with the neighbouring countries, a policy that is impelling the region to the brink of the abyss and jeopardizing its security and stability. The Council further stressed the importance of differentiating between legitimate resistance to military occupation and terrorism that is to be condemned in all its forms and regardless of its rationale.

The Supreme Council expressed the hope that the efforts currently under way would halt the acts of violence in the Palestinian territories so that there could be a resumption of negotiations between the two sides leading to a peaceful settlement that would restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The Supreme Council expressed deep appreciation of the great efforts made by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia, and by his brother, His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guard of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to communicate the Arab position on current issues, to stress the need to break the deadlock in the peace process and to affirm the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including its right to establish an independent State on its national soil with Jerusalem as its capital.

The Supreme Council welcomed the address given by President George W. Bush at the United Nations, in which he expressed the view of the United States on the establishment of a viable Palestinian State and an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), as well as the address given by United States Secretary of State Colin L. Powell on the concept of a Palestinian State. The Council is of the view that this extremely important development may lay the foundations for security and peace and for the development of all the States of the region. In order to give substance to these positive visions, the Council calls upon the United States to elaborate a mechanism for their implementation that is consistent with the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The Supreme Council again called upon the international community to take action to transform the Middle East region, including the Gulf, into a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. The Council affirmed once more that Israel must accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear

Weapons and submit all its nuclear facilities to the International Atomic Energy Agency inspection regime.

Appreciating the important role played by the Republic of Yemen in the Arabian peninsula and the responsibilities it assumes in the context of the peninsula's security, stability and development, the Supreme Council welcomes the participation of the fraternal Republic of Yemen in enhancing ties of cooperation and coordination in the context of collective action by the Gulf Cooperation Council through its membership of:

The Council of Ministers of Health of the GCC States;

The Arab Office of Education for the Gulf States;

The Council of Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs of the GCC States; and

The Arabian Gulf Cup soccer tournament.

This step will be followed by others for the participation of the Republic of Yemen in economic and other fields of cooperation. The Supreme Council anticipates that this will contribute to the advancement of development and social welfare and will strengthen cohesion among the peoples and States of the Arabian peninsula.

The Supreme Council welcomes the recent positive developments in Afghanistan, as exemplified by the formation of the Afghan Interim Authority under the chairmanship of Hamid Karzai. It affirms its readiness to cooperate with the new authorities in furthering the Afghan people's aspirations for stability and economic development.

The Supreme Council voiced its condemnation of the terrorist attack on India's Parliament House on 13 December 2001, and it is of the view that the war against terrorism must take place within the framework of international legitimacy as established by the United Nations Security Council.

The Council noted with great concern the tension obtaining between the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. It expresses the hope that the two countries will endeavour to exercise the utmost self-restraint and will return to the positive atmosphere that accompanied the contacts between the leaders of the two countries and make use of it to address the causes of the existing tension between them. The Council expresses its concern, and it calls upon the Security Council to intervene on an urgent basis to meet its responsibilities with respect to the maintenance of the peace and security of this important region of the world and to prevent the continued deterioration of a situation that may have dire consequences.

Extremism, violence and terrorism

The Supreme Council noted with deep concern the mounting extremism, violence and terrorism that have become worldwide preoccupations. The Council condemned the terrorist acts committed against the United States of America on 11 September 2001 and reaffirmed its unconditional rejection and vigorous condemnation of such practices in all their forms and regardless of their motives, seeking as they do to spread anarchy and terror and to take the lives of innocent civilians.

In this context, the Supreme Council affirmed its support for the international coalition to eliminate terrorism under the leadership of the United States of America. It reaffirms that it is fully prepared to cooperate with the international community to address this devastating manifestation, and it calls for concerted international efforts to convene a world summit conference to formulate international principles and norms to combat terrorism and its causes.

The Supreme Council calls upon leaders of opinion, intellectuals and scholars in the Islamic world to endeavour to communicate the values and principles of Islam based as they are on a spirit of tolerance, the rejection of violence and the prohibition of suicide, which are hallmarks of the doctrines of the Islamic religion. It urges peoples of other religions to be positive and reasonable and not to hold Islam responsible for actions and practices that are very far removed from the spirit of Islam and its exalted beliefs.

The Supreme Council expressed its highest appreciation of the great and devoted efforts made by His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, Amir of Bahrain, during the term as chairman of the twenty-first session of the Supreme Council, in conducting consultations for the implementation of Council decisions through which important advances were made in all fields of joint action and the GCC made further progress towards prosperity and the enhanced security and stability of its member States and their peoples.

The Supreme Council lauded the positive role being played by His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Amir of Qatar, chairman of the ninth session of the Islamic Summit Conference, in supporting joint Islamic action and promoting the causes of the Islamic Community.

The Supreme Council also conveyed its deep appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, Sultan of Oman, and to his Government and people for the generous hospitality and genuine fraternal sentiments with which the leaders of the GCC countries and members of participating delegations had been received. The leaders of the GCC countries commended the attention and interest accorded to the gathering by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, Sultan of Oman, Chairman of the current session of the Supreme Council. They commended his judicious conduct of the proceedings, which had had a major impact on the important results achieved and the decisions taken, and they expressed confidence that Oman, under the leadership of His Majesty, would, as it presides over the work of the session, contribute to strengthening this auspicious process in such a way as to realize the aspirations and ambitions of the peoples of the GCC countries.

The Supreme Council expressed its deep appreciation of the great and devoted endeavours of His Excellency Sheikh Jamil Ibrahim Al-Hujeilan, GCC Secretary-General, and of the effective contributions he has made to this worthy process and to the achievement of important advances with the great effort, copious time and long experience he has invested during his term of office at the head of the GCC secretariat.

The Supreme Council decided to appoint His Excellency Minister of State Abdul Rahman bin Hamad al-Attiyah, of Qatar, as Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council to succeed His Excellency Sheikh Jamil Ibrahim Al-Hujeilan when he completes his term of office at the end of March 2002. The Supreme Council wishes the new Secretary-General every success in his work.

The Supreme Council looks forward to meeting at its twenty-third session, scheduled to be held, God willing, in Qatar in December 2002 at the kind invitation of His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Amir of Qatar.

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Letter dated 28 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to several acts of Palestinian terrorism that occurred over this past weekend.

On Friday afternoon, 25 January 2002, at approximately 11.15 a.m. (local time), a Palestinian suicide bomber detonated explosive charges in a densely populated neighbourhood in south Tel Aviv. Twenty-five people were wounded in the attack, three of them seriously, including a four-year-old boy. In an announcement carried the following evening on Al-Manar, the television station of the terrorist organization Hizbullah, the perpetrator was identified as Safwat Khalil, a member of Islamic Jihad.

Barely 48 hours later, at approximately 12.20 p.m. (local time) on Sunday, 27 January, a Palestinian terrorist detonated powerful explosives just off of Jaffa Road in the crowded heart of downtown Jerusalem. The blast wounded more than 150 people, 4 of them seriously, and killed 1 Israeli, 81-year-old Pinhas Tokatli. This is the second lethal terrorist attack to occur on Jaffa Road within five days. Hizbullah's Al-Manar television station again identified the terrorist, in this case Shinaz Amuri.

These attacks are the latest incidents in the continuing campaign of Palestinian terrorism directed specifically at Israeli civilians. Previous attacks have been detailed in my letters dated 22 January 2002 (A/56/788-S/2002/104), 18 January 2002 (A/56/781-S/2002/86), 16 January 2002 (A/56/774-S/2002/73), 11 January 2002 (A/56/771-S/2002/47), 4 January 2002 (A/56/766-S/2002/25), 13 December 2001 (A/56/706-S/2001/1198), 4 December 2001 (A/56/678-S/2001/1150), 30 November 2001 (A/56/670-S/2001/1141), 27 November 2001 (A/56/663-S/2001/1121), 12 November 2001 (A/56/617-S/2001/1071), 5 November 2001 (A/56/604-S/2001/1048), 24 October 2001 (A/56/506-S/2001/1011), 19 October 2001 (A/56/492-S/2001/990), 17 October 2001 (A/56/483-S/2001/975), 8 October 2001 (A/56/450-S/2001/948), 5 October 2001 (A/56/444-S/2001/943), 3 October 2001 (A/56/438-S/2001/938), 24 September 2001 (A/56/406-S/2001/907), 20 September 2001 (A/56/386-S/2001/892), 17 September 2001 (A/56/367-S/2001/875), 7 September 2001 (A/56/346-S/2001/858), 4 September 2001

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(A/56/331-S/2001/840), 30 August 2001 (A/56/325-S/2001/834), 27 August 2001 (A/56/324-S/2001/825), 13 August 2001 (A/56/294-S/2001/787), 9 August 2001 (A/56/286-S/2001/780), 8 August 2001 (A/56/280-S/2001/775), 6 August 2001 (A/56/272-S/2001/768), 27 July 2001 (A/56/225-S/2001/743), 26 July 2001 (A/56/223-S/2001/737), 17 July 2001 (A/56/201-S/2001/706), 13 July 2001 (A/56/184-S/2001/696), 3 July 2001 (A/56/138-S/2001/662), 2 July 2001 (A/56/131-S/2001/656), 21 June 2001 (A/56/119-S/2001/619), 19 June 2001 (A/56/98-S/2001/611), 18 June 2001 (A/56/97-S/2001/604), 13 June 2001 (A/56/92-S/2001/585), 11 June 2001 (A/56/91-S/2001/580), 4 June 2001 (A/56/85-S/2001/555), 30 May 2001 (A/56/81-S/2001/540), 25 May 2001 (A/56/80-S/2001/524), 18 May 2001 (A/56/78-S/2001/506), 11 May 2001 (A/56/72-S/2001/473), 9 May 2001 (A/56/69-S/2001/459), 1 May 2001 (A/55/924-S/2001/435), 23 April 2001 (A/55/910-S/2001/396), 16 April 2001 (A/55/901-S/2001/364), 28 March 2001 (A/55/863-S/2001/291), 27 March 2001 (A/55/860-S/2001/280), 26 March 2001 (A/55/858-S/2001/278), 19 March 2001 (A/55/842-S/2001/244), 5 March 2001 (A/55/821-S/2001/193), 2 March 2001 (A/55/819-S/2001/187), 14 February 2001 (A/55/787-S/2001/137), 13 February 2001 (A/55/781-S/2001/132), 2 February 2001 (A/55/762-S/2001/103), 25 January 2001 (A/55/748-S/2001/81), 23 January 2001 (A/55/742-S/2001/71), 28 December 2000 (A/55/719-S/2000/1252), 22 November 2000 (A/55/641-S/2000/1114), 20 November 2000 (A/55/634-S/2000/1108) and 2 November 2000 (A/55/540-S/2000/1065).

Israel holds Chairman Arafat and the Palestinian Authority responsible for these attacks in the light of their continuing support for terrorist operations against Israeli civilians and the central role of factions under the direct authority of Chairman Arafat in perpetrating terrorist attacks. Despite efforts by concerned and responsible members of the international community, the Palestinian leadership continues to work to intensify and enhance terrorist operations against Israel. Even while he professes his desire for an end to violence and a political dialogue with Israel, Chairman Arafat continues to incite his people to violence with constant talk of holy war and martyrdom.

Arafat's statements to his own people are rife with references to constant and enduring conflict. At a rally on 26 January 2002, on the day between the two terrorist attacks described above, Arafat promised that the battle would continue until victory and prayed that he would be given the honour of martyrdom. The following day, the Palestinian Authority released yet another group of terrorists from prison, including the head of Islamic Jihad in Bethlehem, a group widely recognized as a terrorist organization. Such releases of known terrorist routinely occur quietly several days after the Palestinian leadership — under pressure from, and for the benefit of, Western Governments — has arrested them.

Since the outbreak of violence in September 2000, the Palestinian leadership has had every opportunity to fulfil its obligations to end violence against Israeli civilians and to uproot the extensive terrorist infrastructure that has taken root in the territory under its control. Time and again, the Palestinian leadership has failed to rise to the challenge and take the actions required of a responsible and law-abiding authority. Violence against civilians, including children, is a tactic that has retained support, both active and tacit, from the highest levels of the Palestinian administration.

It is imperative that, at a time when the world is uniting to combat the common threat of terrorism, the international community makes clear its total rejection of, and intolerance for, regimes which support terrorism and persistently and wilfully flout the will of the international community and the resolutions of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 166, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative